

LOL-HECO-IR-19

Ref: "Aesthetic impacts are considered minimum to none because the three alternatives propose all underground line construction." (HECO T-1, page 14, lines 6-8)

Question(s):

- a. How many parts of the Proposed Action involve above ground installations and/or modifications?
- b. Has HECO changed its believe [sic] about aesthetic impacts?
- c. Doesn't HECO think that an overhead 138-kV transmission line on Wa`ahila Ridge would have minimal aesthetic impacts?

HECO Response:

- a. The parts of the Proposed Action that involve above ground installations include the following:
 1. a 138kV/46kV transformer installation at the existing Kamoku Substation with associated protective relaying;
 2. a 46kV/12kV transformer installation at the existing Makaloa Substation with associated switchgear;
 3. various switching and reconnections on the existing 46kV and 12kV systems near the Makaloa and McCully Substations;
 4. modifications at the existing Ena, Waikiki, Kuhio, Kapahulu, and Kewalo Substations;
 5. a 138kV/46kV transformer installation at the existing Archer Substation; and
 6. reconnections of existing 46kV lines near the Times Supermarket and American Savings Bank building on King Street.

The proposed transformer installations at the Kamoku and Archer Substations would not be visible to the public because the substations are enclosed. The proposed transformer

installation at the Makaloa Substation would be only slightly visible to the public because the substation has a concrete perimeter wall. The proposed modifications at the other substations and the reconnections of existing 46kV and 12kV lines would have the same visual characteristics as the existing facilities that it is modifying, replacing, or reconnecting.

- b. HECO objects to this information request because it is unclear as to the circumstances that are assumed to have had an impact on HECO's beliefs regarding aesthetic impacts. Without waiving its objection, HECO provides the following response. No, HECO has not changed its conclusions in HECO T-1, page 14 (lines 6-8) regarding aesthetic impacts.
- c. HECO concluded in the *September 2000 Revised Final Environmental Impact Statement, Kamoku-Pukele 138-kV Transmission Line Project* that the proposed action (138kV alternative utilizing Waahila Ridge) would have adverse visual impacts.